

Month in 2001, for during the past few months Americans have become familiar with one of the greatest stories of racial reconciliation in our nation's history. I refer to "Remember the Titans," which is the story of the integration of the T.C. Williams High School football team. "Remember the Titans" was released last fall by Disney Pictures and features actors Denzel Washington and Will Patton.

In 1971, the Alexandria City Council voted to integrate T.C. Williams High School, a decision that was criticized by many in the community, as T.C. Williams was one of the first schools to be integrated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We were still in the midst of the Vietnam War, and on the domestic front, relations between those of different races were strained and unstable.

During the summer of 1971, Coach Herman Boone, an African-American who had been coaching in North Carolina, secured the Head Coach position at T.C. Williams High School, a decision that infuriated the white football players and coaching staff already in place at the school. Many of the football players threatened to leave the team and not play football, rather than play for a black coach. Mr. Bill Yoast had been the Assistant Coach at T.C. Williams High School and was next in line to be named Head Coach when Coach Boone arrived on the scene. Coach Yoast remained the Assistant Coach of the football team, and he too struggled with the decision that had been made, even contemplating retiring from coaching football.

After a rocky beginning, Coach Boone and Coach Yoast focused on the same goal: to have the best football team in Virginia, and the country, a goal which they achieved. The Titans won every game that they played, and ended the season as the second best high school team in the nation.

The 1971 T.C. Williams High School football team embodies the ideals we celebrate during Black History Month. In a sense, the football players along with Coaches Boone and Yoast became a family, one which united not only their divided school, but their community as well. Friendships were formed between black and white students that are sustained to this day. We should recall the lessons of the Titans today: to look beyond the outward appearance, and to look instead, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us, at the content of character.

The integration of T.C. Williams High School in 1971, and the peaceful transition that followed after the community as a whole gathered behind the team, paved the way for other schools in Northern Virginia to integrate. I am extremely proud to represent the City of Alexandria and especially T.C. Williams High School, which today remains one of the most culturally diverse high schools in Virginia, where 40 different languages are spoken daily by students from over sixty countries. The student body at T.C. Williams High School is very reflective of the diversity, and more importantly, of the unity, of our great nation.

I am very proud, Mr. Speaker, that the story of Coach Herman Boone and this remarkable team will forever be a part of Black History Month.

MOVING HUMANITY TOWARD A GREAT FUTURE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to the attention of my colleagues, a thoughtful article by Frank Kelly that appeared in the Santa Barbara News-Press, entitled "Moving Humanity Toward a Great Future" on October 1, 2000.

Mr. Frank K. Kelly has been a journalist, a speechwriter for President Truman, Assistant to the Senate Majority Leader, Vice President of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and Vice President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article:

The sight of 152 national leaders streaming into the United Nations headquarters for a Millennium Summit meeting filled me with rejoicing. The leaders were called together by the Secretary General to develop plans for action to move toward lasting peace and a sustainable future for every one on Earth. They endorsed an eight-page plan to deal with the world community's hardest problems—and the U.N. staff has responded to the Summit mandate.

That gathering was particularly encouraging for me because it came close to being what I had envisioned 33 years ago in articles for the Center Magazine and the Saturday Review. Those articles focused on the signs I saw then of the coming transformation of humanity—when people everywhere would act to meet the needs of every member of the human family. I saw the creative power of human beings being released in a glorious surge of new achievements.

In the Center Magazine articles, I proposed that the Secretary General should be authorized by the U.N. to present annual reports on the state of humanity—reports based on information drawn from all the nations and broadcast around the world each year. I contended that the reports should emphasize the noblest deeds and wisest statements of human beings in every field. It should salute Heroes of Humanity—men and women who were highly creative and compassionate, who served one another and helped one another, who broke the bonds which kept others from developing their abilities, who displayed the deepest respect for the inherent dignity of each human person.

The Millennium Summit was certainly based on the transforming principles that I expected to see. Secretary General Kofi Annan asked leaders there to take every possible step to enable the people of every country to move upward in health and prosperity, and to make a strong effort to reduce the number of people living in dire poverty by 50 percent by the year 2015. His goals were clearly similar to those of an American president—Harry Truman—who declared in an inaugural address in 1949: "Only by helping the least fortunate of its members to help themselves can the human family achieve the decent, satisfying life that is the right of all people."

The gathering of the world's political leaders at the U.N. this year must be followed year by year by reports to humanity from the Secretary General. Year after year, the people of this planet must be reminded of what wonderful, mysterious, amazing beings they actually are. There must be continuing celebrations of human greatness.

I do not believe that political leaders—even the best ones among them—can ade-

quately represent the brilliance, the beauty, the enormous diversities of human beings. Future Summit meetings and future reports must involve singers and dancers, choirs of voices, painters and sculptors, novelists and historians and poets, musicians and composers, mystics and spiritual servants, mediators, theologians, retreat masters, and scientists, homebuilders and architects, craftsmen and teachers, administrators and fire wheelers—people from every field. And every celebration should proclaim and reflect the inexhaustible energies of love.

The Millennium Summit revived for many the people the torrent of hope with which we began the New Year. One the first day of the year 2000 there were television broadcasts from places we had never seen before—showing people welcoming the new era with songs and dances, with outburst of exuberant joy. We felt the kinship of belonging to one human family—but that wave of linkage subsided as the patterns of previous centuries took over again. The new perspectives which we had glimpsed through global communications were not absorbed into our thinking and acting.

But the gathering of leaders at the U.N. brought back our awareness of the fact that we do live in a time of transformation. With all their capacities and their limitations, the leaders made informal contacts with one another than they had never experienced before. When Fidel Castro came close to Bill Clinton and shook Clinton's hand before anyone could stop him, there was a moment of change that would not be forgotten. And the President heard comments from other leaders who milled around him and approached him as person, he responded to them and he had a personal impact on each one of them.

The effects of the Millennium Summit will be felt in countless ways. The U.N. has already gained new vitality from it—new attention from the media, new understanding from people who had largely ignored it. The leaders who mingled there, who talked in the halls and encountered one another unexpectedly, will feel wider responsibilities to the world community as well as to their own nations.

Yet this time of transformation goes far beyond the repercussions from a conference of presidents and prime ministers. It has started dialogues in the homes of people everywhere—and around the Earth through the Internet. It calls for a continuous recognition of the creative events occurring in all countries. It demands a wider awareness of the fast currents of change that are carrying us into new circles of conflict and compassion, new embraces new surges of evolution, tall feelings of hope that great things are coming.

In July, 50 passionate advocates of long-range thinking and constructive action took part in a three-day meeting at La Casa de Maria, a conference and retreat center in Santa Barbara, with the purposes of connecting their lives to one another and becoming more effective in benefiting humanity and a threatened world. Much attention was given to the ideas of Joanna Macy, a Buddhist philosopher and activist, who believes that many signs indicate a great turning in human attitudes. She asserts that many people are turning away from destructive habits of an industrial society toward a life-sustaining society—toward cooperative actions to save the Earth. She believes that this movement "is gaining momentum today through the choices of countless individuals and groups."

The men and women in the sessions at La Casa cited these goals: "To provide people the opportunity to experience and share with others the innermost responses to the present condition of our world: to reframe